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*Embassy of the United States of America
Bangkok, Thailand*

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December 13, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Ambassador

THROUGH: DCM – Alex Arvizu

FROM: PAO – Mark Larsen

SUBJECT: Scenario for Interview with Sutthichai Yoon (Thai Language) to Air on Channel 9

You have agreed to host an interview with Sutthichai Yoon for his new one-hour international affairs program to air on Channel 9 on Monday, January 2, 2006. The program's production staff has provided the following details of the interview.

Language: Thai

Time: Wednesday, December 14, 2005, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Location: Living room of EMR; following the sit-down portion of the interview, Khun Suttichai would also like a guided on-camera tour of the grounds

Possible Topics: Thai-U.S. relations in recent history; regional security; security at the Embassy; black sites; Tsunami recovery; FTA; Burma; the U.S. in ASEAN

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Q: The U.S. continually calls on other countries to respect human rights, and yet incidents such as Abu Ghraib have occurred. Is the U.S. being hypocritical? We recognize that there have been violations of the law by U.S. personnel. United States personnel engaged in detention operations are required to comply with U.S. domestic law, the law of war, and our international treaty obligations, including the prohibition on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

Those who have failed to adhere to these treatment standards have and will continue to be held accountable.

Q: The U.S. continually calls on other countries to respect human rights, and yet detains prisoners at Guantanamo Bay without trial. Is the U.S. being hypocritical? Although many in the international community have called for the closure of Guantanamo, no one has suggested a viable alternative for dealing with the very dangerous men that are held there.

In response to Al-Qaida's attacks on the United States, the United States and a coalition of allies initiated a campaign against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The UN Security Council, in Resolution 1373, reaffirmed our right of self-defense in relation to the attacks of September 11.

Detainees brought to Guantanamo were captured waging war against the United States. They are terrorist trainers, bomb makers, recruiters and facilitators, terrorist financiers, bodyguards for Bin Laden, and potential suicide bombers. More than 700 of these men were so dangerous that they could not be safely detained in Afghanistan.

The United States has no interest in detaining enemy fighters any longer than is absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, of those already released from Guantanamo, approximately 15 have returned to acts of terror and been recaptured. Those who remain in Guantanamo are there to prevent their return to battle.

Terrorists held at Guantanamo are not soldiers; they do not represent any state or government, nor do they adhere to the rules of war. Al-Qaida is not a party to any international treaties or conventions.

Nevertheless, those detained by our armed forces at Guantanamo have in practice, as a matter of policy, been treated humanely and received many of the protections that the Third Convention affords. Detainees, like prisoners of war, have a right to be free from torture or abuse.

Detainees at Guantanamo Bay are provided with shelter, food, clothing, reading materials, medical care, and the opportunity to worship, including prayer beads, rugs and copies of the Koran in their native language.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has access to every detainee at Guantanamo Bay, just as it would have to prisoners of war.

Where allegations of unlawful treatment of detainees by Department of Defense personnel surfaces, it is reviewed, and when factually warranted, investigated.

Q: Are there secret prisons or black sites in Thailand?

The President confirmed in September that the United States had a program under which 14 leaders and operatives of al Qaeda were held and questioned by CIA. With respect to detainees, the United States Government complies with its Constitution, its laws and its international treaty obligations. The United States does not condone torture. Nor does it transport detainees from one country to another for the purpose of being tortured.

For national security reasons, the President did not disclose the number of sites and locations.

Northeast Asia

Q: Is China considered by the U.S. to be an economic, military or political threat?

No -- we have no containment policy towards China. We are concerned about some aspects of the Chinese military build-up and would like to see greater transparency on China's part, but at the same time, we have a good relationship with China.

Q: Is the U.S. planning to decrease troops in South Korea and Japan?

As a result of the global repositioning and force modernization talks we have had with both Japan and South Korea there will be changes that the Defense Department believes will enhance our defense capabilities in both countries, and will also in both cases involve some redeployments of forces out of each country.

We continue to work closely with Japan, advancing our relations toward a more mature partnership, one in which Japan plays an increasingly effective role in advancing our mutual interests regionally and globally. President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi promised to transform our alliance by improving its deterrent capabilities while also addressing the concerns of base-hosting communities in Japan, thus strengthening domestic support in Japan for our long-term presence.

We have also consolidated our partnership with South Korea. We have begun reducing our troop presence in a prudent way, at the same time enhancing our deterrent capability by restructuring and reorganizing our forces. Meanwhile, our relationship with South Korea is moving beyond its original security rationale as the nation begins to play a global political role commensurate with its economic stature. South Korea is the third largest troop-contributing state to international operations in Iraq.

Q: What is the U.S. position on the North Korean nuclear program?

Our goals remain clear: peace and security in Northeast Asia and a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. We will do what is necessary to achieve these goals. We will support our

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allies in the region. We will work with the United Nations, and together, we will ensure that North Korea understands the consequences if it continues down its current path.”

The greatest challenge to the nonproliferation regime comes from countries that violate their responsibilities under the Nonproliferation Treaty. The North Korean Government has been one such case. So is Iran. The Iranian regime is watching how the world responds to North Korea's behavior and it can now see that the international community will confront this threat.

Q: What is the status of the 6 party talks with North Korea?

We welcome the announcement that North Korea plans to return to the six-party talks. We expect talks to resume in November or December.

North Korea did not set any conditions regarding sanctions or other matters for returning to the six-party talks. We are prepared to discuss a range of issues within the context of the six-party talks.

Q: Will sanctions against North Korea succeed?

The Bush administration's strategy of urging allies to step up border and cargo inspections and deploy radiation monitors will only go so far and can't guarantee that North Korea won't export its nuclear technology.

We are working closely with other countries in the region to implement additional measures to improve our ability to detect radiological and non-radiological material that may flow from North Korea. Establishing a robust detection architecture in the region, in particular, is a critical step in our implementation efforts.

An effective detection architecture is established by installing nuclear detection technology, conducting exercises and other training with our regional partners, and sharing information we gather on North Korean proliferation to ensure that we are building a layered defense against North Korea proliferation.

As the Secretary has stated, we are tracking North Korea's actions closely and discussing these with our partners. As Secretary Rice has said, we seek not an escalation, but a de-escalation of this crisis. It goes without saying, however, that any further attempt by North Korea to proliferate only deepens North Korea's isolation.

Burma

Q: What is U.S. policy towards Burma?

It is fitting that the UN Security Council has placed Burma on its permanent agenda. Despite the NLD's decisive victory in Burma's 1990 national election, the military junta ruling Burma continues to harass and arrest NLD members and refuses to engage the democratically elected representatives of the Burmese people in a meaningful process of political reform.

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